

## **EASLEY OUTLINES “NO EXCUSES” AGENDA IN STATE OF THE STATE**

Renewing his commitment to One North Carolina, Governor Mike Easley outlined his “no excuses” agenda to ensure that every citizen in every region of the State has a fair chance to succeed. Easley promised to:

- Implement a Pre-K program for at-risk children so that they come to school ready to learn;
- Lower class size in grades K-3 to improve the educational opportunities afforded to our children;
- Invest in an expansion of the Teaching Fellows Program to recruit the highest quality educators to our schools;
- Develop a school report card to tell parents exactly how many students are in the classroom and whether their child’s teacher is certified in the subject they are teaching;
- Ask school boards to develop a plan for character education and to adopt reasonable dress codes for their students;
- Use Governor’s Crime Commission grants to establish more alternative schools across the state;
- Explore the option of a lottery or find other new resources to fund our educational investments;
- Enact a Patients’ Bill of Rights to ensure that our insurers are accountable to consumers;
- Establish a prescription drug plan for seniors that will be funded from money from the national tobacco settlement;
- Propose Truth in Penalties so that environmental fines cannot be manipulated and that our natural resources are protected for future generations.

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